

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/684,998

Examiner

John Pezzlo

Applicant(s)

MOLL ET AL.

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed 10/14/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other See Continuation Sheet.


JOHN PEZZLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Continuation of Attachment(s) 9. Other: Drawings filed 10/14/2003 are accepted by the examiner.

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicants have claimed uniquely distinct features in the instant invention, which are not found in the prior art, either singularly or in combination. The independent claim identifies the following uniquely distinct features:

1. Regarding claim 1 – An apparatus comprising: a data aligner to receive a data stream from a data transmission link and to separate the received data stream into a segment of predefined number of bytes to identify data bytes for alignment, wherein the data has a granularity of less than a width of an internal data path, the data aligner to align a fragment of data with a current segment or delay the fragment to combine with a next segment for alignment into interim storage for subsequent output onto the internal data path, and a buffer to receive aligned data from the data aligner for interim storage and to output data onto the internal data path.
2. Regarding claim 8 - An apparatus comprising: a data aligner to receive a data stream from a data transmission link and to separate the received data stream into a segment of eight bytes to identify data bytes for alignment, wherein the data has a granularity set to two bytes (double-byte) and in which the aligner to align a double-byte fragment of data with a current segment or delay the fragment to combine with a next segment for alignment into interim storage

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for subsequent output onto an internal data path, and a buffer to receive aligned data from the data aligner for interim storage and to output data onto the internal data path.

3. Regarding claim 14 - An integrated circuit comprising: an interface unit to receive incoming data stream from a data transmission link for use by the integrated circuit, a control decode logic operably coupled to the interface unit to receive and separate commands from the incoming data stream for use to align data, a data aligner to receive data from the interface unit and to segment the received data into a segment of eight bytes to identify data bytes for alignment, wherein the data has a granularity set to two bytes (double-byte) and in which the data aligner to align a double-byte fragment of data with a current segment or delay the fragment to combine with a next segment for alignment into interim storage for subsequent output onto an internal data path, and a buffer to receive aligned data from the data aligner for interim storage and to output data onto the internal data path.

4. Regarding claim 19 - A method comprising: segmenting a data stream received from a data transmission link by separating the received data stream into a segment of eight bytes to identify data bytes for alignment, wherein the data has a granularity set to two bytes (double-byte), aligning the eight bytes so that a double-byte fragment is aligned with the current segment or delayed to combine with a next segment for alignment into interim storage for subsequent output onto an internal data path, multiplexing two pairs of double-byte word groups for output, but in which alignment of the pairs of double-byte words places even numbered double-byte data word at a beginning of the eight-byte segment to obtain alignment of data, and buffering aligned data into interim storage to output data onto the internal data path.

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The closest prior art, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-20 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Conclusion

Claims 1-20 being allowable, **Prosecution On The Merits Is Closed** in this application.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. Casper et al. (US 4,451,916) discloses repeatered, multi-channel fiber optic communication network having fault isolation system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Pezzlo whose telephone number is (571) 272-3090. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel, can be reached on (571) 272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C.

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300

For informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"

Hand delivered responses should be brought to:

Jefferson Building

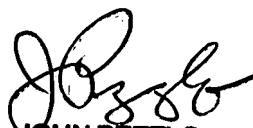
2A15

500 Dulany Street

Alexandria, VA, 22313.

John Pezzlo

6 August 2007


JOHN PEZZLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER